non-participation of major buyers like M/s. Brooke Bond and M/s. Lipton.

(e) With the concerted effort of the Central Government, the Tea Board and the State Government of Assam, M/s. Brooke Bond and Lipton have since started operating at Guwahati auction.

Smuggling of Gold and Silver from Pakistan

38. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA; Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that gold and Silver from Pakistan are smuggled freely along Indo-Pak border in the State of Rajasthan;

	Value of seizure
1989	
1990 (up to Nov.)	

The almost 1000 kms. long Rajasthan Pakistan border consists of vast tracks of sand and sparse population and the nature of the terrain makes the task of the anti-smuggling formations quite formidable. In order to strengthen the anti-smuggling efforts in the Rajasthan sector a new Sub-collectorate with Headquarters at Jodhpur and Divisions at Jaisalmer, Barmer, Sri-ganganagar, Bikaner and Jodhpur have been created in January, 1989 for exclusively combating smuggling and to act as a second line of defence to the Border Security Force which is deployed on the border and whose personnel have also been delegated certain powers under the Customs Law.

All theSe formations/Agencies remain alert against smuggling activities and are actively assisted by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and Narcotics Control Bureau. The requirements of equipment of the operational units are being constantly monitored and they have already been provided with vehicles, metal detectors, night vision binaculars and fire arms

The anti-smuggling drive has been intensified and close co-ordination is being maintained with all the agencies concerned in the detection and prevention of smuggling.

(b) whether it is a fact that anti-smuggling wing of the Central Excise and Customs Department has been functioning under severe constraints; and

(c) if So, what steps Government propose to check the regular smuggling of gold etc. along the Rajasthan border.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH); (a) to (c) Available reports indicate that the Rajasthan sector of the Indo-Pakistan border continues to be sensitive to smuggling. This is confirmed hy the figures of seizures of contraband goods and persons apprehended in the Rajasthan sector.

Unearthing of Money Laundering Racket in Sikkim fey Income Tax Officials

39. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI:
SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY; SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item that appeared **in the English** daily ".'